

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended and claims 21 and 22 are added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner RoDee during the June 29, 2005 personal interview is gratefully appreciated. The reasons presented in the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As agreed during the personal interview, the claims are amended in order to overcome the rejection. As such, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 10-260601 ("JP") in view of Takenouchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,273,852), further in view of Carlson (U.S. Patent No. 2,297,691) or Kadokura et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0039913), and further in view of Diamond ("Handbook of Imaging Materials"); claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP in view of Takenouchi, further in view of Carlson or Kadokura, and further in view of Diamond; and claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP in view of Takenouchi, further in view of Carlson or Kadokura, further in view of Diamond, and further in view of Heeks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,026). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an image forming method that includes developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrophotographic photoreceptor with a toner, wherein a storage of elastic modulus at 160°C of the toner is in the range 150 Pa to 620 Pa, as

recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 15. Support for the amended feature can be found in the specification at, for example, page 47, line 6.

Because none of the applied references, alone or in combination, would arrive at the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 15, independent claims 1 and 15, and their dependent claims, are patentable over the combination of the applied references. As such, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New claims 21 and 22, at least for their respective dependence on allowable claims 1 and 15, also define patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 30, 2005

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